

Iowa Communications Network

January 2012 Newsletter

ICN Insider



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Caucus Night...The Nation Focused on Iowa	1
Feedback Received for Critical Issue	2
ICN Released its Fiscal Year 11 Annual Report	2
Webinar Series for E-Rate 471 Forms	3
Employee Spotlight	3
Upcoming K-12 Connections	4

ICN was recently highlighted in a "BTOP in Action" article posted in December on the federal BroadbandUSA website.

www2.ntia.doc.gov/grantee/iowa-communications-network



Caucus Night...The Nation Focused on Iowa

With the national spotlight focusing on Iowa on January 3, many preparations needed to be completed before the national and international news stations began their Iowa Caucus broadcasts.

ICN supplied voice, Internet, data, and video services, at the request of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) - General Services Enterprise, for various media networks during the 2012 Iowa Caucuses. The services requested from DAS increased from the 2008 Iowa Caucus, largely due to the volume of requests for stations' staff to be located on the Capitol Complex.

During the weeks preceding the caucuses, ICN coordinated multiple requests for temporary installation of services at various Capitol Complex locations. Preparing for a large scale event like the Caucuses is tricky, since orders and other elements of the event are constantly changing and require adjustments up until the last few minutes before show time.

Extensions of video

circuits were also requested for stations' satellite trucks located throughout the complex. This allowed for the media outlets to be equipped for their live broadcasts throughout the Caucus evening.

The arrangements for the CBS broadcasts included coordinating connections in the State of Iowa Law Library in the Capitol and the Iowa Building (previously Mercy Capitol) for off-site staff. ICN's Capitol Complex Technicians prepared the facilities to include temporary rack mounting

and cabling to support digital transmissions of T1 and ISDN lines (Integrated Services Digital Network), along with Ethernet connections. The proximity for CBS' staff to be on the Capitol Complex was a benefit that they didn't have during the 2008 Caucuses.

To ensure that broadcasts on the Capitol Complex aired successfully, DAS purchased ICN's stand-by technical support the days preceding and throughout the night on January 3.



Top Picture: CBS' news room in the Iowa Building.



Side Picture: ICN's Greg Dorrell verifying cable connections in the equipment rack.

Bottom Picture: CBS' Caucus 2012 staged set in the State Law Library in the Capitol.



**Message from
Dave Lingren,
ICN's Executive
Director**

The fiber that was deployed years ago throughout the state has not experienced any issues with the increased demand of bandwidth that our customers are requesting. In fact, ICN has been able to more than double the capacity on our network equipment. After ICN completes the work of our three-year federal broadband grant, much of our electronic equipment will be brand new. With the combination of the fiber-optics and equipment enhancements, we see no issues with meeting the increase demand.

Feedback Received for Critical Issue

Throughout November and December, the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC), ICN's governing body, received valuable input during five public meetings of the RFP (Request for Proposal) Implementation Team (RIT). Each meeting utilized ICN's videoconferencing capabilities, which provided a way for individuals to participate, that were not located in the Des Moines area.

The purpose of the 13-member team was to receive and record input from a broad range of stakeholders. The team represented key organizations and agencies, which

compiled and reviewed a comprehensive list of 41 assumptions. The assumptions are to assist in providing clarification regarding the precise meaning for the current undefined aspects of House File 45, which was passed in the 2011 legislative session.

All input throughout the team's process was documented and will be used by the ITTC in the construction of the RFP for the sale or lease of the Network. This does NOT mean that the ICN will be sold or leased. It means that the ITTC is beginning the due diligence steps required to determine if there is interest from an outside provider to purchase or lease the ICN.

For two-months, the team discussed extensively the history of the ICN, benefits that the ICN provides to its customers, logistic complications, and customer implications. [Fiberutilities Group](#) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was retained by the Commission, as a neutral party, to be the Project Manager for the sale or lease of the Network, which entails researching and assembling the overall RFP.

To read the entire list of assumptions compiled by the team, meeting notes, frequently asked questions about the process, and to view other documents presented visit www.icn.state.ia.us/ittc/RFPImplementationTeam.

ICN Released its Fiscal Year 11 Annual Report

At the end of November, the ICN released its Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2011. The report outlines the state's fiber-optic network's activities for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

The report includes a recap of the many initiatives relating to the Network and highlights usage, including the increased need for bandwidth and access to high-speed Internet by

ICN customers. ICN customers include K-12 schools, Regent universities, community colleges, private colleges, libraries, healthcare facilities, National Guard, and state and federal agencies.

Fiscal year 2011 was an exciting year for the ICN with the award of a \$16.2 million federal broadband grant from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) of the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This grant provides ICN the means to remove legacy equipment, simplify troubleshooting, provide additional bandwidth to sites, and cost effectively bring authorized users to the Network at the bandwidth advanced applications require.

ICN's fiscal year 2011 annual report is located at www.icn.state.ia.us/aboutus/agency_reports.

Webinar Series for E-Rate 471 Forms

On Tuesday, January 10, Dr. Pamela Pfitzenmaier Jacobs (Iowa Department of Education) will be hosting the first of four scheduled webinars covering the E-Rate 471 Form process. Form 471 requests discounts on eligible telecommunications services to be provided to eligible schools, libraries, and consortia.

The January webinar series will demonstrate a step-by-step process for filling out your E-rate 471 Form. *Who should attend this webinar?* Those designated as the E-rate personnel for your school or library, your business

office administrators, technical coordinators, superintendents, and any E-Rate newcomer. Each webinar will provide an overview of the same information, and will last about two hours. Pamela will also provide time for a question and answer session to ensure each participant understands the 471 Form process. This webinar series will also cover two new topics: the Children's Internet Protection Act and bid evaluation documentation.

If you are interested in this webinar series, please contact Debbie to register, at Debbie@iptv.org. Once you are registered, Debbie

will provide you with instructions for accessing the webinar presentation.

If you cannot attend on any of the available dates, Iowa Public Television (IPTV) will post a recorded presentation on the E-Rate page at www.iptv.org/iowa_databases/erate/. If you need assistance with the 470 E-Rate Form or E-Rate basics, IPTV has posted two previous webinars on the bottom of the E-Rate page under the "How To" section.

For ICN specific E-rate questions, contact Angela Schneider by phone at 515-725-4622 or by email at angela.schneider@iowa.gov.

The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing lowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare.

Employee Spotlight: Pearl Rohmiller

Pearl Rohmiller is an Accounting Technician II at the ICN. Her primary duties include completing audit work orders, customer accounts, and reporting errors. She also reports and processes refunds for inmate calling. Pearl has been with the ICN since June 2010. She feels the best part of working for the ICN is the variability in her work.

Pearl attended the University of Nebraska, Briar Cliff University and numerous military training schools. Her previous work experience consists of working for a Department of Defense

contractor, the Iowa Department of Finance, and 30 years serving as a military employee with the Iowa Air National Guard.

While employed by the Department of Defense contractor in Spain, Pearl and her husband, Gary, immersed themselves in the Spanish culture. They both enjoyed the language and food, as well as bull fighting and Spanish county fairs.

Pearl has been an active volunteer throughout her life. While living in Sioux City, she was the Treasurer for Sioux Land Youth Activities Softball

Association, a soup kitchen coordinator, and a United Way Coordinator. Pearl and her family have also been coaches for various sports, and have been active in homelessness and elderly advocacy. While in the military, she served in the Honor Guard for military funeral services and other military functions.

Her favorite activities include: watching her grandchildren's events and sporting activities, baking and cake decorating, scrapbooking, and farming with her husband, and target shooting.



*Do you have new staff,
administrators, or
friends who might be
interested in receiving
this newsletter? Please
pass it on and have
them contact
lori.larsen@iowa.gov to
be placed on the
distribution list.*

*Remember to visit ICN's
website at
www.icn.state.ia.us
to keep updated on all ICN
related news.*



Iowa Communications Network
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Phone: (515) 725-4692
Toll Free: 1-877-426-4692
www.icn.state.ia.us

Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television's Connections

Arthur's Teacher Moves In

Wednesday, January 25, 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM; 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM; 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM
Audience: **Grades 1-3**

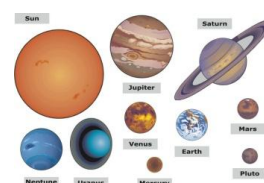
Knock, knock!...Who's there?...Your Teacher! AAAUGH! This will be a fun reading and writing session to ponder and plan what could happen if your very own teacher came to stay with you...EEEEK! Presenters read *Arthur's Teacher Moves In* by Marc Brown, present story writing ideas, show fantastic ways to publish student stories, and help students plan an interactive story together. After the session, students take the cooperative writing started with the group back to their classroom to complete, illustrate, and publish using some of the ideas from the session.

Registration Deadline - Friday, January 20, 2012

Cosmic Connections

Tuesday, January 31, 12:30 PM - 1:20 PM; 1:30 PM - 2:20 PM Audience: **Grades K-5**

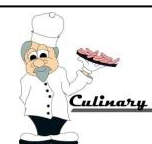
Students will learn the order and names of the planets in our solar system. Students will discuss on the latest controversy of Pluto's status of a 'dwarf planet'. Students will also learn about the asteroid belt and the different types of stars as they board an imaginary rocket ship and tour the galaxy. This interactive program also allows time for students to ask questions, so come prepared.



Registration Deadline - Friday, January 27, 2012

The REAL Apprentice: Culinary Arts and Hospitality

Tuesday, January 24, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Audience: **Grades 9-12**



Scott Community College has officially opened its new Culinary Arts & Hospitality Management Center. This program covers the careers of: Culinary Arts, Events Management, Hospitality Management, Baking Certificate, and Restaurant Management.

Program Director, Chef Brad Scott, will explain how an apprentice program works, and what it takes to get accepted to the program. Apprentice programs are great options for students who might want to take a non-traditional approach to a degree.

Registration Deadline - Thursday, January 19, 2012

For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

Marcia Wych or Abby Brown
Educational Services
(800) 532-1290 or (515) 242-4181
abby@iptv.org
www.k12connections.iptv.org

Please share this newsletter with others. To be added to the distribution list, please e-mail lori.larsen@iowa.gov. If you wish to be removed from the list, please reply to this e-mail with "unsubscribe" in the subject line.